CLAIMS:

1. An equipment support transferable between a first device having an upper socket and a second device having a lower socket, the equipment support comprising:

an equipment supporting portion configured to support patient care equipment,

a downwardly extending coupler coupled to the equipment supporting portion, the coupler having upper and lower portions configured for receipt in the upper and lower sockets, respectively, and

upper and lower locks, the upper lock moving to a locking position to lock the upper portion to the upper socket as the lower lock moves to an unlocking position to unlock the lower portion from the lower socket, and the upper lock moving to an unlocking position to unlock the upper portion from the upper socket as the lower lock moves to a locking position to lock the lower portion to the lower socket.

2. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein each of the upper and lower locks comprises a locking element and a locking member that moves to wedge the locking element against the respective one of upper and lower sockets when the upper and lower locks are in their respective locking positions.

3. The equipment support of claim 2, wherein the lower portion of the coupler has an opening at a bottom end thereof, the upper lock comprises a rod coupled to the upper locking member and extending downwardly therefrom, and an end of the rod spaced from the upper locking member is accessible through the opening.

4. The equipment support of claim 3, wherein the lower socket comprises a protrusion that engages the rod and enters the opening as the lower portion seats downwardly into the lower socket.

5. The equipment support of claim 3, wherein the coupler comprises a tube having a bore, and the upper locking member and the rod are received in the bore of the tube.

6. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein each of the coupler upper and lower portions varies in diameter from a large diameter to a small diameter

in a downward direction, and the small diameter of the upper portion is equal to or larger than the large diameter of the lower portion.

7. The equipment support of claim 6, wherein each of the coupler upper and lower portions is frustoconical.

8. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein the coupler has a generally cylindrical intermediate portion between the upper and lower portions.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the upper socket has a generally c-shaped cross section having spaced apart end portions which define an outwardly opening slot in communication with a bore in the upper socket, and the spacing between the end portions of the upper socket is larger than the diameter of the generally cylindrical intermediate portion of the coupler.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the height of the generally cylindrical intermediate portion is greater than the height of the upper socket.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the equipment support is transferred from the first device to the second device as the upper socket carrying the equipment support is lowered while the lower portion of the coupler is generally aligned with the lower socket to a position where the upper socket is below the upper portion of the coupler permitting the lower socket to carry the equipment support and allowing the first device to move away from the second device.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the equipment support is transferred from the second device to the first device as the upper socket is positioned around the intermediate portion of the coupler and then raised to a position where the upper socket engages the upper portion of the coupler and lifts the equipment support off the lower socket permitting the second device to move away from the first device.

13. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein the first device comprises any one of the following: an arm, a column, a cart, a stand, a hospital bed, a surgery table and a stretcher.

14. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein the second device comprises any one of the following: an arm, a column, a cart, a stand, a hospital bed, a surgery table and a stretcher.

15. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein the equipment support comprises one of an IV pole and a rack adapted to carry infusion equipment.

16. The equipment support of claim 1, wherein the upper lock includes an upper locking element movable between the locking position where the upper locking element engages the upper socket to block the upper portion from moving relative to the upper socket and the unlocking position where the upper locking element disengages from the upper socket to free the upper portion to move relative to the upper socket.

17. The equipment support of claim 16, wherein the coupler comprises an outer tube having a longitudinal axis and a radially extending opening, the upper portion comprises a collar placed about the outer tube for movement along the longitudinal axis, the collar has a radially extending opening generally aligned with the radially extending opening in the outer tube, and the upper locking element is positioned in the radially extending openings in the outer tube and the collar for radial movement therein between the locking and unlocking positions.

18. The equipment support of claim 17, wherein the upper portion comprises a radially extending pin coupled to the collar and movably received in a generally vertically extending slot in the outer tube, the upper socket supports the equipment support when the radially extending pin moves to a top end of the vertically extending slot in the outer tube, and the lower socket supports the equipment support when the radially extending pin moves to a bottom end of the vertically extending slot in the outer tube.

19. The equipment support of claim 16, wherein the lower lock includes a lower locking element movable between its locking position where the lower locking element engages the lower socket to block the lower portion from moving relative to the lower socket and its unlocking position where the lower locking element disengages from the lower socket to free the lower portion to move relative to the lower socket.

20. The equipment support of claim 19, wherein the lower portion includes a radially extending opening in communication therewith, and the lower locking element is positioned in the radially extending opening for radial movement therein between the locking and unlocking positions thereof.

21. The equipment support of claim 19, wherein the lower lock includes a lower locking cylinder located within an interior region of the lower portion for longitudinal movement therein, the lower locking cylinder has a first

outer diameter and a second outer diameter small than the first outer diameter, the portion of the lower locking cylinder having the first outer diameter engages the lower locking element to move the lower locking element outwardly to its locking position, and the portion of the lower locking cylinder having the second outer diameter allows the lower locking element to move inwardly to its unlocking position.

22. The equipment support of claim 21, wherein the coupler comprises an outer tube having a longitudinal axis and a generally vertically extending slot, the upper portion comprises a collar placed about the outer tube and a radially extending pin coupled to the collar and movably received in the generally vertically extending slot in the outer tube, the lower lock comprises an inner tube coupled to the radially extending pin and extending downwardly therefrom, and the lower locking cylinder is coupled to the inner tube for movement therewith.

23. The equipment support of claim 22, wherein the upper lock includes an upper locking cylinder located within the outer tube for longitudinal movement therein, the lower portion of the coupler has an opening at a bottom end thereof, the upper lock comprises a rod positioned inside the inner tube, the rod is coupled to the upper locking cylinder and extends downwardly therefrom, an end of the rod spaced from the upper locking member is accessible through the opening, and the rod engages a stop as the lower portion of the coupler seats downwardly in the lower socket to unlock the upper portion from the upper socket.

24. The equipment support of claim 16, wherein the coupler comprises an outer tube having a longitudinal axis and a bore, the upper lock includes an upper locking cylinder located within the bore for longitudinal movement therein, the upper locking cylinder has a first outer diameter and a second outer diameter smaller than the first outer diameter, the portion of the upper locking cylinder having the first outer diameter engages the upper locking element to move the upper locking element outwardly to its locking position, and the portion of the upper locking cylinder having the second outer diameter allows the upper locking element to move inwardly to its unlocking position.

25. The equipment support of claim 24, wherein the lower portion of the coupler has an opening at a bottom end thereof, the upper lock comprises a rod coupled to the upper locking cylinder and extending downwardly therefrom, an end of the rod spaced from the upper locking member is accessible through the opening,

and the rod engages a portion of the lower socket and enters the opening as the lower portion of the coupler seats downwardly in the lower socket to unlock the upper portion from the upper socket.

26. A patient care equipment support transferable between a first device having an upper tapered socket and a second device having a lower tapered socket, the equipment support comprising:

an equipment supporting portion configured to support patient care equipment,

a downwardly extending coupler coupled to the equipment supporting portion, the coupler having upper and lower tapered portions configured for receipt in the upper and lower tapered sockets, respectively, and

upper and lower locks, the upper lock moving to a locking position to lock the upper tapered portion to the upper tapered socket as the lower lock moves to an unlocking position to unlock the lower tapered portion from the lower tapered socket, and the upper lock moving to an unlocking position to unlock the upper tapered portion from the upper tapered socket as the lower lock moves to a locking position to lock the lower tapered portion to the lower tapered socket.